

**ADDRESS OF HONORABLE FRED B. HELMS  
OF THE CHARLOTTE BAR  
PRESENTING THE PORTRAIT  
OF  
CHIEF JUSTICE WALTER PARKER STACY  
TO  
THE SUPREME COURT  
NOVEMBER 10, 1953**

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*Mr. Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of North Carolina:*

The family of our late Chief Justice, Walter Parker Stacy, has asked that I present his portrait to this Court. I do so, humbly conscious that neither the gifted brush of the artist, nor the English language in my inexpert hands can adequately portray either the man or the jurist. I am confident, however, that his portrait will be a constant inspiration to all members of the Bench, Bar and public who shall hereafter come into this Court which he graced with his presence for thirty years and which he distinguished by his illustrious career as Chief Justice for more than a quarter of a century.

Walter Parker Stacy was a great Chief Justice. As a jurist, he was a John Marshall. As an administrator and executive, he was a Charles E. Hughes. His profound and extensive knowledge of law and procedure was the marvel of all who knew him. His familiarity with North Carolina decisions was unparalleled. Frequently, during oral argument by the ablest attorneys on unusual points he would interrupt the argument to ask: "Why doesn't the case of (naming the case and the volume of the reports) decide this case?" In many such instances, the case to which he referred had not been mentioned in the argument nor cited in the briefs, and yet it was decisive of the point at issue. His intimate knowledge of and his retentive memory concerning the decisions of his own court were far more reliable than the best digests. No jurist ever had a more extensive or better stocked tool chest and no master craftsman in the annals of jurisprudence ever used his tools with greater knowledge, skill or effectiveness.

He was and is one of the immortal chief priests in the temple of justice. The sacrifice which he placed upon the altar was not that which was bought or sold in the marketplace. He placed himself upon the altar and gave his own life as his supreme sacrifice in order that he might make his maximum contribution toward the continuation of the blessings of liberty under law for his fellowmen. He will forever occupy high